

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11 JOHN AYERS,) No. C 13-04428 HRL (PR)
12 Plaintiff,)
13 v.)
14 J. D. LOZANO, et. al.,)
15 Defendants.)
16 _____)
17 (Docket No. 17)

18 Plaintiff, a state inmate at Salinas Valley State Prison (“SVSP”), has filed a civil
19 rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, against SVSP prison officials for unconstitutional
20 acts. The Court dismissed Plaintiff’s complaint with leave to amend to file a complaint
21 containing only claims personal to Plaintiff. (Docket No. 14.) The Court will now
22 proceed with an initial review of Plaintiff’s amended complaint. (Docket No. 15.)

DISCUSSION

25 | A. Standard of Review

26 A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a
27 prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a
28 governmental entity. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the court must identify

1 any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a
 2 claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is
 3 immune from such relief. See id. § 1915A(b)(1),(2). Pro se pleadings must, however, be
 4 liberally construed. See Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir.
 5 1988).

6 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential
 7 elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was
 8 violated, and (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the
 9 color of state law. See West v. Atkins, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

10 **B. Plaintiff's Claims**

11 Plaintiff claims that it was common knowledge at SVSP that the Northern
 12 Mexicans prison gang had standing orders from their leader to "attack all blacks
 13 whenever or wherever they get the chance," which was why they were on lockdown.
 14 (Am. Compl. Attach. at 8.) Plaintiff claims that on November 21, 2010, Defendant
 15 Correctional Officer E. Martinez knowingly opened the cell doors of members of the
 16 Northern Mexicans, allowing them to attack Plaintiff, an African-American, and stab him
 17 multiple times with "shanks." (Id. at 8-9.) Liberally construed, Plaintiff's allegations are
 18 sufficient to state a violation of his Eighth Amendment right to safety. Farmer v.
 19 Brennan, 511 U.S. 825, 833 (1994) (finding that prison officials have a duty to protect
 20 prisoners from violence at the hands of other prisoners).

21 Plaintiff claims that Defendants E. Medina, W. Muniz, K. Kostecky, and J. D.
 22 Lozano found Defendant E. Martinez had violated departmental policy and yet refused to
 23 refer him to the District Attorney's office for prosecution. Plaintiff claims they did so to
 24 "foster a code of silence" to cover up Defendant Martinez's actions, and that it violated
 25 Plaintiff's First Amendment right to "free speech." (Am. Compl. Attach. at 10-11, 14.)
 26 These allegations, even if true, fail to state a violation of Plaintiff's right to free speech
 27 because there is no connection between the Defendants' alleged silence and Plaintiff's
 28 right to speak freely on the matter. Rather, the Free Speech Clause restricts government

1 regulation of private speech, but does not regulate government speech. Pleasant Grove
 2 City, Utah v. Summum, 129 S. Ct. 1125, 1331 (2009). Accordingly, the claims against
 3 these Defendants are **DISMISSED** for failure to state a claim. See 28 U.S.C. §
 4 1915A(b)(1), (2).

5 Plaintiff also claims that Defendants S. Hatton, T. Krenke and L. Stepp were
 6 responsible for training Defendant E. Martinez and for “a policy of deliberate indifference
 7 to Defendant E. Martinez [*sic*] lack of training.” (Am. Compl. Attach. at 11.) Plaintiff
 8 claims that Defendant Warden A. Hedgepeth is liable for giving Defendant Martinez
 9 “unsupervised authority about the opening and closeing [*sic*] of cell doors during a crisis
 10 situation.” (*Id.*) However, these allegations are insufficient to state a claim of supervisor
 11 liability. A supervisor may be liable under section 1983 upon a showing of (1) personal
 12 involvement in the constitutional deprivation or (2) a sufficient causal connection
 13 between the supervisor’s wrongful conduct and the constitutional violation. Henry A. v.
 14 Willden, 678 F.3d 991, 1003-04 (9th Cir. 2012) (citing Starr v. Baca, 652 F.3d 1202,
 15 1207 (9th Cir. 2011)); Starr, 652 F.3d at 1207; Redman v. County of San Diego, 942 F.2d
 16 1435, 1446 (9th Cir. 1991) (en banc). A plaintiff must also show that the supervisor had
 17 the requisite state of mind to establish liability, which turns on the requirement of the
 18 particular claim — and, more specifically, on the state of mind required by the particular
 19 claim — not on a generally applicable concept of supervisory liability. Oregon State
 20 University Student Alliance v. Ray, 699 F.3d 1053, 1071 (9th Cir. 2012). Accordingly,
 21 these claims are **DISMISSED WITH LEAVE TO AMEND**.

23 CONCLUSION

24 For the reasons stated above, the Court orders as follows:

25 1. The claims against Defendants E. Medina, W. Muniz, K. Kostecky, and J.
 26 D. Lozano are **DISMISSED** for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.
 27 The Clerk shall terminate these Defendants from this action.

28 2. The complaint is DISMISSED with leave to amend. Within **twenty-eight**

1 (28) days of the date this order is filed, Plaintiff shall file a SECOND AMENDED
2 COMPLAINT using the court's form complaint. The second amended complaint must
3 include the caption and civil case number used in this order – Case No. C 13-04428 HRL
4 (PR) – and the words “SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT” on the first page. Plaintiff
5 must answer all the questions on the form in order for the action to proceed. The second
6 amended complaint will completely supersede the amended complaint, and Plaintiff may
7 not make references thereto.

8 3. **In the alternative**, Plaintiff may file notice that he wishes to proceed solely
9 on the Eighth Amendment claim found cognizable above against Defendant E. Martinez
10 and strike all other claims and Defendants from the amended complaint.

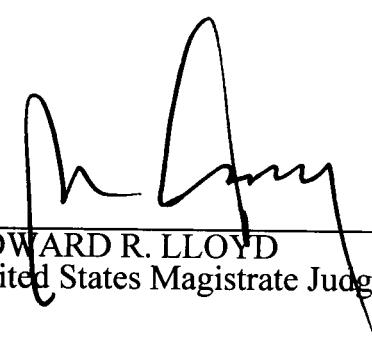
11 4. Plaintiff's “request for production,” (Docket No. 17), is **DENIED** as
12 premature. Plaintiff may proceed with discovery once the Court orders service of the
13 complaint and directs Defendant(s) to file an answer.

14 **Failure to respond in accordance with this order in the time provided will**
15 **result in the dismissal of this action without prejudice and without further notice to**
16 **Plaintiff.**

17 The Clerk shall include two copies of the court's complaint with a copy of this
18 order to Plaintiff.

19 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

20 DATED: 2/10/15

21 
22 HOWARD R. LLOYD
23 United States Magistrate Judge
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOHN AYERS,

Plaintiff,

v.

J. D. LOZANO, et al.,

Defendants.

Case Number: CV13-04428 HRL

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on 2/11/2015, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

John Ayers C68750
Salinas Valley State Prison
P.O. Box 1050
Soledad, CA 93960

Dated:

2/11/2015

PCromwell, deputy
Richard W. Wieking, Clerk